thing is wrong. A pilot engine is despatched to the assistance of the loiterer, and the semaphores are so worked that all trains approaching this point, on either track, are brought to a stop. Suppose the detention to be for a half hour or so, to mend something which has got out of order. When ready to start, the guard renews the current by joining the ends of the wire, and the train moves on. Everybody is notified of the fact instantaneously, and the other trains fall into order.

Besides this admirable plan, there is a telegraph devoted specially to the policemen of the road, which is so simple as to be read at a glance by men totally unable to read common printing or writing. At every three miles the policeman sits in his box, and allows no train to pass by him until notice has been received from the box three miles ahead of the safe arrival of the preceding train at that station. If it has not arrived, the train following must wait till it does. In the meantime the semaphore says, "No, you can't go on." Of course, until this one moves on no other can pass the second station behind, and so the system reacts to the very commencement of the line.

If these devices are considered necessary on English roads, each with their two separate and distinct tracks, to what extent ought not precautionary measures be carried on our reckless, danger-inviting single track railroads?

There are over sixty trains, freight and passenger, that run on the line between London and Birmingham (110 miles) in the course of the day; yet, with the exception of a passing injury now and then, to guard or pointsman—the fruit of their own carelessness—accidents are unheard of.—[*Correspondent of Public Ledger.*

[From the Men of the Time.]

Baron Humboldt.

Humboldt, Frederick Henry Alexander, Baron, the great German naturalist, was born in Berlin, September 14, 1769. He was educated with a view to employment in the direction of the government mines successively at Göttingen, Frankfort on the Oder, at Hamburgh, and at the mining school at Frieberg. In 1792 he was appointed assessor to the mining board, a post which he shortly exchanged for that of a director of the works at Baireuth. In 1795 he relinquished these duties to connect himself to those pursuits of investigation and discovery in which he has won an undying name. From the earliest period he had evinced a faculty of physical inquiry, which he had assiduously cultivated by the study of chemistry, botany, geology, and galvanism; the latter then a new and incipient science. He now proceeded to condense and arrange his scientific ideas, and test them by the known, before applying them in countries yet unexplored. His next care was to look round for a country whose ill-known natural riches might open to the industrious inquirer a prospect of numerous and valuable discoveries. Meanwhile he made a journey with Hatler to North Italy to study the volcanic theory of rocks in the mountains of that district, and, in 1797, started for Naples with a similar purpose with Bach. Compelled to surrender this plan by the events of war, he turned his steps to Paris, met with a most friendly reception from the *savans* of that capital, and made the acquaintance of Bonpland, just appointed naturalist to Baudin's expedition. Humboldt had only time to arrange to accompany his new made friend when the war compelled the postponement of the entire project. Upon this he resolved to travel in North-Africa, and with Bonpland, had reached Marseilles for embarkation when the events of the times again thwarted his intention. The travellers now turned into Spain, where Humboldt, whose great merits were made known by Baron von Forell, the Saxon minister, was encouraged by the government to undertake the exploration of Spanish America, and received promises of assistance in his investigations. On the 4th of June, 1799, Humboldt and Bonpland sailed from Corunna, and happily escaped the English cruisers; and on the 19th landed in the haven of Santa Cruz, Teneriffe. They ascended the peak, and in the course of the few days of their stay collected a number of new observations in the natural history of the island. They then crossed the ocean without accident, and landed on American ground, near Cumana, on the 16th of July. They employed eighteen months in examining the territory which now forms the free state of Venezuela, reached Caraccas in February, 1800, and left the sea-coast anew near Puerto Cabello, in order to reach the Orinoco by crossing the grassy steppes of Calabozo. They embarked on the Orinoco in canoes, and proceeded to the extreme Spanish post, Fort San Carlos, on the Rio Negro, two degrees from the equator, and returned to Cumana, after having travelled thousands of miles through an uninhabited wilderness. They left the continent for Havana, and stayed there for some months, until, receiving a false report that Baudin was awaiting them, according to appointment, on the coast of South America, they sailed from Cuba in March, 1801, for Carthagena, in order to proceed thence to Panama. The season being unfavorable to a further advance, they settled for a time at Bogota, but in September, 1801, set out for the south, despite of the rains, crossed the Cordillera di Quindin, followed the valley of Cuaca, and by the greatest exertions reached Quito, January 6, 1802. Eight months were spent in exploring the valley of Quito and the volcanic mountains which enclose it. Favored by circumstances, they ascended several of these, reaching heights previously unattained. On the 23d June, 1802, they climbed Chimborazo, and reached a height of 19,300 feet—a point of earth higher than any which had hitherto been ascended. Humboldt next travelled over Loxa, Jaen de Bracomoros, Caxamarca, and the high chain of the Andes, and reached, near Truxillo, the shore of the Pacific. Passing thence through the desert of Lower Peru, he came to Lima. In January, 1803, he sailed for Mexico, visited its chief cities, collecting facts, and departed for Valladolid, traversed the province of Mechracan, and reaching the Pacific coast near Jorullo, returned to Mexico. Here he stayed some months, gaining large accessions to his stores of knowledge by intercourse with the observant portion of the educated classes of that country. In January, 1804, he embarked for Havanna from Vera Cruz, remained there a short time, paid a visit of two months to Philadelphia, and finally returned to Europe, landing at Havre in August, 1804, richer in collections of objects, but especially in observations on the great field of the natural sciences, in botany, zoology, geology, geography, statistics and ethnography, than any preceding traveller. Paris at that time offering a greater assemblage of scientific aids than any capital of the continent, he took up his residence there, in order to prepare the results of his researches for the public eye. He shortly commenced a series of gigantic publications in almost every department of science; and, in 1817, after twelve years of incessant toil, four fifths had been printed in parts, each of which cost in the market more than $500. Since that time the publication has gone on more slowly, and is still incomplete. Having visited Italy in 1818, with Gay Lussac, and afterward travelled in England in 1826, he returned, took up his residence in Berlin, and, enjoying the personal favor and most intimate society of the sovereign, was made a counsellor of state, and intrusted with more than one diplomatic mission. In 1829, at the particular desire of the Czar, he visited Siberia and the Caspian Sea, in company with Gustav Rose and Ehrenberg. The travellers accomplished a distance of 2142 geographical miles, journeying on the Wolga from Novorogod to Casan, and by land to Catharineberg, Tobolsk, Barnaul, Schlangenberg, and Zyrianski, on the southwest slope of the Altai, by Buchtarminsk to the Chinese frontier. On their return, they took the route by Ust-Kamonogorsk, Orusk, the Southern Ural, Orenberg, Sarepta, Astrachan, Moscow, and Petersburg. Taken singly, there is not one of Humboldt's achievements which has not been surpassed, but taken together they constitute a body of services rendered to science such as is without parallel. The activity of naturalists is commonly directed either to accumulate rich materials in observations, or to combine such observations in a systematic manner, so as to derive from their diversity one rational whole; Humboldt has done both so well, that his performances in either department would entitle him to admiration. With a mind in which was treasured up every observation or conjecture of preceding philosophers, not excepting those of antiquity, he set out measuring the heights of mountains, noting temperature, collecting plants, dissecting animals, and every where pressing forwrad to penetrate the meaning of the relations which he found to subsist between the different portions of the organic kingdom and man. This latter new and practical aspect of the natural sciences was first presented by Humboldt, and gives to such studies an interest for thousands who have no taste for the mere enumeration of rocks, and plants, and animals. The sciences which deal with the laws governing the geographical distribution of plants, animals, and men, had their origin in the observations and generalizations of Humboldt, who may be justly regarded as the founder of the new school of physical inquiry. In addition to the general and ultimate gain to humanity of such an advance in science as Humboldt has effected, it is to be reckoned the immediate partial benefit of his observations, according to which charts have been constructed, agriculture extended, and territories peopled. Humboldt is most popularly known by his "Cosmos," a work written in the evening of his life, in which he contemplates all created things as linked together and forming one whole, animated by internal forces.

The Four Henrys.

The following tale, is translated from the French.

It contains the account of rather a strange rencontre of four individuals, who made themselves prominent in France, during the middle and end of the sixteenth century, and is as follows:

One stormy evening as the rain fell in torrents, an old woman who lived in a miserable hut, in the Forest of St. Germain, and who passed in the surrounding country for a kind of witch, heard a loud knocking at her door. She opened it, a young man on horseback presented himself, and craved hospitality.

By the dull light of a lamp which she held in her hand, she perceived him to be a young nobleman. He appeared to be quite young, and his dress denoted rank. The old woman lighted a fire, and inquired of the stranger whether he was hungry and desired food. The appetite of a youth of sixteen is like his heart at the same age, craving, and not difficult to please, and he immediately accepted her offer. A morsel of cheese and a loaf of black bread from the cupboard was all the old dame could produce.

"I have nothing more," said she to the young nobleman; "this is all that your grinding tithes and taxes leave a poor creature to offer a traveller; the peasants, too, in this country, call me a witch and sorceress, and make that excuse to their consciences for stealing from me the little that my poor old field produces."

"*Ma foi!*" said the young man, "if ever I become King of France, I will suppress the taxes, and teach the people better."

"God grant it!" replied the old woman.

At these words the gentleman drew to the table to commence his repast; but, at the same moment a fresh knock at the door arrested him.

The old woman opened it, and perceived another horseman, drenched with rain, who also begged for shelter. The same hospitality was instantly granted him, and on the stranger's entrance she perceived that he too was young, and judging from his appearance, of noble descent.

"What! is it you, Henry?" cried one.

"Yes, Henry," replied the other: both were named Henry.

The old woman discovered from their conversation, that they were of the number of a large hunting party, conducted by the King, Charles IX., which had been dispersed by the storm.

"Mother," said the second comer, "have you nothing better to offer us?"

"Nothing," replied she.

"Then," said he, "we will go shares."

The first Henry demurred, but glancing at the resolute eye and strong frame of the second Henry, said, in somewhat a chagrined tone—

"Agreed; we will share equally."

He dared not express his secret motive, but he feared, if not sharing *equally*, his companion would appropriate the whole. They accordingly sat down on either side of the table, and one had already begun to cut the bread with his dagger, when a third knock was heard at the door. The meeting was indeed singular. It was again a youth, a nobleman, and a Henry. The old woman looked at them with amazement.

The first comer wished to hide the bread and cheese, the second replaced them on the table, and laid his sword by the side. The third Henry smiled.

"You do not wish then that I should share your supper," said he. "Well! I can wait, I have a strong stomach."

"The supper," said the first Henry, "belongs, by right, to the first comer."

"The supper," said the second, "belongs to him who knows best how to defend it."

The third Henry became red with anger, and said; haughtily,

"Perhaps it belongs to him who knows best how to fight for it.

These words were scarcely uttered, when the first Henry drew his poignard; the two others their swords. As they were first beginning the affray they were startled by a fourth knock at the cabin door; a fourth young man, a fourth nobleman, a fourth Henry is introduced. At the sight of drawn swords he produced his own, and attaching himself to the weakest party, he joined in the combat.

The old woman terrified, hid herself, and the weapons strike everything in their reach. The lamp fell down and was extinguished, but they continued to fight in the darkness. The noise of the swords lasted some time, then gradually became less, and at length ceased altogether. Then the old woman ventured to issue forth from her hiding-place, and rekindling the lamp, she perceived the four young men stretched on the ground, each having a slight wound. She examined them carefully, and found that fatigue, rather than loss of blood, had overcome them.

They rose from the ground one after the other, and ashamed of what had transpired in the heat of their passion, they began laughing, and exclaimed:

"Come, let us now sup together, without any more fighting."

But when they came to look for their supper, they found it on the ground, all trodden under foot, and stained with blood. Meagre as it was, they regretted it. In addition to this, the cabin was destroyed, and the old witch, seated in a corner, fixed her pale red eyes on the four young men.

"Why dost thou stare on us thus?" said the first Henry, who was troubled at her gaze.

"I am reading the fates written on your foreheads," replied she.

The second Henry commanded her sternly to disclose them, the two others laughingly acquiesced. The old woman replied:

"As you have all four met in this cabin, so shall you all meet in a like destiny. As you have trampled under foot and stained with blood the bread offered you by hospitality, so will you trample under foot and stain with blood the power you might mutually share. As you have devastated and impoverished this cottage, so will you devastate and lay waste France. As you have all four been wounded in the darkness, so will you all four perish by treason and a violent death."

The four young noblemen could not refrain from laughing at the old woman's prediction.

These four noblemen were the four heroes of the Ligne, two as its leaders, and two as its enemies:—

Henry of Conde: poisoned by his wife at Saint Jean d'Angely.

Henry of Guise: assassinated at Blois, by the Forty-five.

Henry of Valois: assassinated by Jaques Clement, at Saint Cloud.

Henry of Bourbon: assassinated at Paris by Ravaillac.

A diagram of a transparent ballot-box was shown recently, at the Mayor's office, in New York, which it is proposed to submit to the Common Council, at its next session, for adoption in future election campaigns in that city. The ballot-box proposed is very simple, being a hollow glass globe, supported on four pillars. A brass lid is fastened by a lock on the top of the globe. In this lid is an aperture large enough to admit a ballot. It will be seen that by this kind of ballot-box, every vote can be seen as deposited, and that false bottoms, and other modes of cheating, cannot, by any possibility, be introduced.

The Physique of Crime.

There is a certain monotony and family likeness in the criminal countenance, which is at once repulsive and interesting; repulsive from its rugged outlines, its brutal expression, its physical deformity; interesting from the mere fact of that commonness of outward character; the expression and the structure and the style of features being so unnaturally alike, as to suggest that there must be a common cause at work, to produce upon these faces so remarkable a result. What is this cause? Is it a mere habit of life? Intellectual pursuits, it is well known, affect the character, even the material form of the face; why not criminal pursuits? No person can be long in the habit of seeing masses of criminals together, without being struck with the sameness of their appearance. Ugliness has some intimate connection with crime. No doubt, the excitement, the danger, the alternate penalties and excesses attached to the career of the criminal, make him ugly. A handsome face is a thing rarely seen in a prison, and never in a person who has been a law-breaker from childhood. Well informed heads, round and massive, denoting intellectual power—may be seen occasionally in the jail; but a pleasing, well formed face, never. What does this ugliness of the prison-population indicate? This—that the habit of crime becomes in a few years a fixed organism, which finds expression even in the external form. And is no such a fact full of morals? Does not every one feel how important it is—in the interests of society, in the interest of the criminal himself—that he should be dealt with in the earliest stage of his career, before the evil that is in him has had time to fix itself in the organization, to grow fast in the ever-hardening granite? * * *

A man who has not seen masses of men in a great prison cannot conceive how hideous the human countenance can become. Looking in front of these benches, one sees only demons. Moderately well-shaped heads and intelligent countenances are very rare amongst them. Occasionally the eye rests upon a cranium of a superior order—grand in outline and finely moulded; the man belonging to it, no doubt has a history, if it could only be got at. But the vast mass of heads and faces seem made and stamped by nature for criminal acts. Such low, misshapen brows—such animal and sensual jaws—such cunning, reckless, or stupid looks—hardly seem to belong to anything that can by courtesy be called human.—*Dixon's London Prisons.*

MARINE JOURNAL.

PORT OF HONOLULU.

Arrived.

Sept. 30—Br. brig Recovery, Mitchell, 154 tns, 30 days from Vancouver's Island.
Br. barque Avery, Pollard, 380 tons, 198 days from Liverpool.
Oct. 2—Am. sh Polynesia, Perkins, 1,004 tons, 15 days from San Francisco.
Am. wh sh Narragansett, Gardner, 398 tns, 10 days fm Ascension, 50 bbls sp.
Am wh sh Mercury, Hayden, 340 tns, 12 days from Guam, 280 sp.

Cleared.

Oct. 2—Brig Oahu, for a port in the Pacific.
Ship Polynesia, for Manila.

PORT OF LAHAINA.

Arrived.

Oct 2—Ship Phœnix, Nickerson, 35 days from Kodiack, 1 whale this season.
Ship Martha, of Fair Haven, Meader, 150 bbls sp. this season.

Memorandum.

Capt. Nicholson reports spoke, July 13, bark Lark, 6 whales; 24th James Andrews, 2 do; Wm. Thompson, 4 do; Charles Carroll, 1 do. Had two men killed by a whale—a boatsteerer and a native belonging to these Islands.

AUCTION SALES.

BY M. C. MONSARRAT.

ON TUESDAY next, at auction—Assorted Merchandise; and for account of whom it may concern, six cases of damaged Ginghams, landed from Hamburg brig "Emma."

ON THURSDAY next, on the premises, the Lease of Ayong's Store, and Premises in Maunakea Street.

FORT LANDS AT AUCTION!

ON WEDNESDAY, Oct. 8, at 12 o'clock M., will be sold by Public Auction, by order of his Excellency the Minister of the Interior, the following desirable Lots of Land in Nuuanu Valley, situated on both sides of Liliha street:

Oloku.	No. 1.	Kula and Kalo land,		about	4 acres.
do.	No. 2.		do.	do	3-4 "
Alewa.	No. 2.	do.	do.	do.	4½ "
do.	No. 3.	do.	do.	do.	3 "
Puunui.	No. 1.	do.	do.	do.	3½ "
do.	No. 2.	do.	do.	do.	4½ "

21-2t M. C. MONSARRAT, Auctioneer.

BY A. P. EVERETT.

VALUABLE REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION!

ON THURSDAY, November 13th, at 12 o'clock noon, will be sold at Public Auction (unless previously disposed of at private sale), those valuable premises situated on Nuuanu and Marine sts., opposite Merchant street, known as the

"GRIMES PREMISES,"

Occupied by Vincent Grenier, Esq. The property will be subdivided as follows:

Lot on the corner of Nuuanu and Marine sts., being 24 feet frontage on Nuuanu street, and 77 feet on Marine street, to a passage way 14 feet wide. Upon this lot is a TWO STORY BUILDING, about 20x25 feet upon the corner of the two streets, lower story fitted with counter, shelves, &c.; also, on Marine street, a ONE STORY BUILDING, about 13x20 feet.

Lot on Nuuanu street, being 38 feet frontage, and running back 78 feet to alley way; upon which is a TWO STORY BUILDING about 30x25 feet, with a splendid Cellar. The lower story is fitted up with counters, shelves, &c.

—ALSO—

Lot on Nuuanu street, being 26 feet frontage, and running back 79 feet to alley way, upon which is a TWO STORY BUILDING, about 26x25 feet, the lower story fitted up with shelves and counters, and in the rear, Cook House, Stables, &c.

The above offers one of the best opportunities for investment ever offered in Honolulu.

TERMS.—One-quarter part Cash, one-quarter part Note at one year, balance, note at four years, with interest from date of sale, at 1 per cent. per month, payment secured by mortgage upon the premises.

Title Fee Simple, and undoubted. For plans, particulars, &c., apply to A. P. EVERETT,
21-7t Auctioneer.

REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION!!

ON WEDNESDAY, Jan. 14, 1857, at 12 M., will be sold at Auction (unless previously disposed of at private sale), those valuable premises opposite the Seamen's Chapel, known as the NICHOLSON STAND. The lot is large, and the stand of the most valuable in Honolulu for a Wholesale and Retail trade.

There is a store 54x22 feet, one and a half stores; a good Dwelling House 45x18 ft. 6; a Work Shop for tailoring or other purposes, an inexhaustible well of water, carriage house and stalls for horses, and various other out-houses.

Terms very favorable. Apply to Castle & Cook, on the premises, or at the Upper Store near the Stone Church. 20-7t A. P. EVERETT, Auctioneer.